

Remarks

Applicants have canceled claims 152-186, 189, 197, 203 and 205 without prejudice or disclaimer and amended claims 187, 188, 195, 196 and 198. Claims 187, 188, 195 and 196 have been amended to replace the term “comprising” with the phrase “consisting of.” Claim 198 has been amended to replace the phrase “further comprises” to “is fused to.” New claims 207 and 208 have been added. Support for these new claims can be found in the second paragraph on page 4 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 137-151, 204 and 206. Claims 137-151, 187, 188, 190-196, 198-202, 204 and 206-208 will be pending upon entry of these amendments. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and objections in view of the following remarks.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph- enablement and written description

Claims 152-203 and 205 are rejected for allegedly lacking enablement and written description in the specification. *See* page 2 and page 5 of Paper No.33.

Applicants respectfully disagree, and maintain that the previously pending claims were fully enabled and fully described in the specification as originally filed. However, claims 152-186, 189, 197, 203 and 205 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, claims 187, 188, 195 and 196 have been amended to recite “consisting of.” Applicants reserve the right to pursue canceled subject matter in one or more, continuing applications. In light of the above described amendments, Applicants believe that the Examiner’s rejection has been obviated and respectfully request its reconsideration and withdrawal.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 171, 173-5, 177-179, 181-183, 185, 186, 203 and 205 have been rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Kao et al. (1992, J. Biol. Chem. 276:20239-20247). Applicants submit that all of the above rejected claims have been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

III. Claim fees

Applicants note that the Fee Transmittal submitted with Applicants response on March 9, 2001 indicated that the fee for 3 extra independent claims (8 total independent claims) should have been charged to Deposit Account Number 08-3425. However, it is now noted that Applicants, in fact, filed 7 extra independent claims (12 total independent claims) with that response. Applicants are uncertain whether the office charged the Deposit Account for 3 or 7 extra independent claims, and request that the Office please charge any discrepancy in claim fees to Deposit Account Number 08-3425.

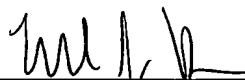
Conclusion

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully solicited. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is urged. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below if any further action by Applicants would expedite the issuance of this application.

Finally, if there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-3425. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, such an extension is requested and the appropriate fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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